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2005-09-23 Minutes of the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate

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Approved Minutes of the ECAS
Fourth Regular Meeting – Academic Year 2005-2006
Friday, September 23, 2005
11:00 a.m. Ploeger Conference Suite, St. Mary's Hall 113-B
Presiding: Dr. David Biers, President Academic Senate

Senators Present: D. Biers, P. Eloë, H. Gerla, S. Hileman, J. O’Gorman, F. Pestello, J. Rapp, T. Thompson
Absent (Excused): J. Biddle, K. Huelsman, R. Penno, J. Saliba

1. Opening Prayer:

- Teri Thompson provided the opening prayer.

2. Roll Call:

- Eight of the twelve members of the ECAS were in attendance.

3. Approval of Minutes:

- Approval of the previous meeting was suspended for this shortened meeting.

4. Announcements: President Biers

- Announcements were suspended for this shortened meeting.

5. Old Business

➤ **Committee Reports**

- **Academic Policies Committee (Biddle):** Chair of AP is out of town and so a committee report was unavailable. A member of this committee reported that the committee has not yet met.
- **Faculty Affairs Committee (Gerla):** H. Gerla reported that FAC held its first meeting on Wednesday. (They have scheduled to meet every other Wednesday.) Joe Untener came to this first meeting and presented information on the proposed background checks of faculty. A very interesting and active discussion ensued on this topic in ECAS Provost Pestello suggested a possible process which could be followed for such checks could be: HR gets the data, they send it to the associate provost for faculty affairs, the AP make a decision if the information contained is substantial enough to impact the persons ability to work here (or detrimental to the University if uncovered later) then this information would be shared with the provost, if the provost agrees that this information is significant then he would share this information with the appropriate dean. We should be knowledgeable in terms of a person's background so that if something is significant, particularly if there are repeat offenses on things substantial, we should at least know this before a hiring decision is made.
- **Student Academic Policies (Hileman):** S. Hileman reported that the student academic senators have finally been selected. The group has met informally once to talk about re-forming the discussion on the honor code. A regular weekly meeting time will soon be set. President Biers reminded S. Hileman that SAP doesn't just consist of students that faculty too must be involved in this discussion. T. Thompson commented that she has already met with S. Hileman to talk about the honor code and she has also met with Nancy Buchino to be brought up to speed.

6. New Business

➤ **Debrief – Senate & ELC meetings**

- **Issue:** President Biers asked for a debrief of the Senate and ELC meetings--this included whether or not Provost Pestello answered the question presented by ECAS at ELC and the Senate meeting.
- **Discussion:** P. Eløe raised a question/concern regarding the ECAS/ELC question and the follow-up which was discussed in CCPD—budget models not in place and so it's really difficult to respond. D. Biers had no sense or feel how it's going to be resolved. D. Biers questioned where things are going with regard to graduate school funding. J.O'Gorman expressed his appreciation for the funding of the renovation of the library.
- **Outcome:** J. Rapp answered for ECAS that indeed Provost Pestello had answered the questions put forth by ECAS.

➤ **Questions for Provost brought by faculty**

- **Issue:** President Biers stated that a faculty member Steve Dandaneau, presented ECAS with three questions for the Provost to respond/answer.
 - **Question 1:** *What process of evaluation, if any, will be used in assessing Dr. Curran's presidency prior to continuation of his initial contractual period, assuming the existence of such, or any extension thereof?, and will the faculty have a voice in that process?*
 - **Provost's response** – President Curran is in the fourth year of his five year term as president. The Board of Trustees will review and make a decision for continuation this year. Board chair Dan Sadlier responding to the Provost's question regarding inclusion of the faculty in the evaluation process, stated that the Board will consult with ECAS. Further Mr. Sadlier asked for ECAS' thoughts on this plan.
 - P. Eløe shared his concern that if in fact the Board decides to involve ECAS in this process that the membership would need to prepare itself for such important work. President Biers offered that this discussion might best be added as an agenda item for one of the subcommittees to begin to wrestle with.
 - **Question 2:** *What is the Office of Advancement's record achievement (assuming it is possible to publicly reveal such) under Dr. Curran's leadership?*
 - **Provost's response** - Provost Pestello gave a brief overview of advancement – under Bro. Ray's leadership – stating that coming out of the LEAD campaign we sought to raise about 20 million per year. This is roughly the amount currently being raised. Provost Pestello suggested that ECAS invite Fran Evans, VP for advancement and Ted Bucaro, community and governmental affairs. President Curran has invested more energy in having Ted Bucaro work with government and regional agencies to bring in more state and federal dollars into the institution.
 - **Question 3:** *The Chronicle publishes the compensation for U.D.'s top five highest compensated employees, but there is a substantial lag in their reporting. The most recent figures currently available are for 2002-03, and include Oliver Purnel (#2) and Sam Sould (#5). Might the Academic Senate request from the U.D. Administration up-to-date figures on our current top 5 on the argument that they will be published eventually, so why not a bit sooner? This information could be included as part of the annual "Palermo" report on faculty compensation, and would be helpful information for faculty (and their representatives) when participating in budget-related discussions.*
 - Provost Pestello shared that Tom Burkhardt will provide a copy of the latest 990 to the ECAS president. This will include the salaries of the president, all of the vice-presidents and the next five highest paid University employees for FY04.
 - ECAS members shared their belief that they would be more interested in learning the average faculty salary – average increases – than the information above.

➤ **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 11:28 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Kathleen Henderson